



TOWN OF WEST HARTFORD

MEETING MINUTES

West Hartford Clean Energy Commission

September 11, 2017

7:00 PM

Rm 422

1. Roll Call – 7:05 pm

Member	Present	Alternates	Present
Catherine Diviney		Robert Palmer	
Chris Nelson	X	Dave Mello	X
Joe Campanella	X	Vacant	
Bernie Pelletier	X		
Max Dubuisson	X		
Total	(3 needed for quorum)		
Additional Attendees	James Campanella, Gerry Hayes (Wethersfield), Jim Henkel Ted Loewenthal		

2. Approval of Minutes

- a. August 14, 2017 - approved

3. Communications/Administration

- a. Commission Alternate – James Capella nominee. James Capella's nomination was not yet presented to the Town Council as of this meeting. We agreed to get it on the next possible agenda for approval.
- b. WH-CEC Yahoo Group. As of this evening Chris Nelson has not migrated the Yahoo Group to Google – but plans to do so.
- c. Swearing In. Joe Campanella and Chris Nelson are planning to be sworn in before the next meeting.
- d. Commission Positions. The sense of the group was that everyone was happy with Chris Nelson and Catherine Diviney continuing on in their roles as co-chairs of the Commission. Bernie Pelletier offered to serve as Secretary of the group. No further positions were discussed. We will make this motion at the next meeting.

4. Ongoing Business

- a. 100PercentCT Project Update.
 - The Simsbury Microgrid scoping project continues with the site being moved to Simsbury High. Bernie Pelletier asked the group to consider sites in West Hartford that might be suitable. A discussion of the benefits of a Microgrid ensued and Sterling Massachusetts was held out as an example. The CEC briefly discussed the vulnerability of the electrical grid to natural and man-made disaster (current case in point is Hurricane Irma's devastation of the Florida grid). This video is a good explanation: <https://youtu.be/w3lt2lwLCm4>.

- As part of the Microgrid project Bernie Pelletier has come in contact with Tumulow Energy – a software company that offers unique products to help customers lower their energy charges. We discussed having Chuck Brody attend the next meeting – or make a conceptual proposal to the town.
- The 100PercentCT project has completed a draft study for Mansfield.
- A next step for the West Hartford project is to examine the economics of current energy use and the capital cost associated with renewable generation. Hopefully this will be a discussion item at the next meeting

b. CT Green Bank Biz Letter. no update – Catherine to update us at next meeting.

5. New Business

- LED Streetlights. No update – deferred to next meeting.
- LEED Charter Oak. No update – deferred to next meeting
- Energy Plan Update. No progress since last meeting. The sense of the group was to have a draft plan completed by the next meeting.
- Other Items.
 - Joe Campanella and Chris Nelson discussed the pilot organic recycling program. A pilot program of 200 households is being tested to see how the introduction of an organics stream would work. No cost to the town for the pilot.
 - James Capella discussed the book “DRAWDOWN” – a recent book that outlines 100 steps for reducing Green House Gases.
 - Outreach to Business – the Commission discussed the effectiveness of the outreach via the Chamber of Commerce meeting (every other Friday at 7:30 AM). Thus far it hasn’t been effective but the plan is to continue to attend the meeting and discuss. Clearly more work is required.

6. Adjournment – 8:15 PM